

FIRE MARSHALS

QUARTERLY



INTERNATIONAL FIRE MARSHALS ASSOCIATION • WINTER 2003

**IFMA
2003 Annual Fire Marshals Conference
Reno, Nevada
Activity Schedule**

Please come and join IFMA in its annual conference activities in Reno Nevada.

Saturday, November 15

8:00 am to 4:00 pm IFMA Executive Board Meeting, Cascade 1

Sunday, November 16

8:00 to 11:45 am Legal Aspects of Fire Investigation, N 1-2
1:30 to 5:15 pm Building for Safety—Coordination Between the Design Professional and Fire Services, N 6-7
3:45 to 5:30 pm Fire Department Operations at Facilities Protected by Fire Pumps, N 3-4
5:30 to 7:30 pm Hospitality Room, Nevada Foyer

Monday, November 17

8:00 to 11:00 am Opening General Session
1:00 to 4:45 pm Retail Sales of Consumer Fireworks—NFPA 1124, N 10
4:00 to 4:45 pm IFMA Business Meeting, Teton 1-2
4:45 to 5:30 pm IFMA Codes and Standards Forum, Teton 1-2

Tuesday, November 18

8:00 to 11:45 am Sleeping Through Smoke Detectors: How Prepared Are You? Carson 4
12:15 to 1:45 pm Luncheon
1:45 to 4:30 pm NFPA 1, Uniform Fire Code, Performance-Based Provisions, Carson 4
1:45 to 4:30 pm Innovations in the Propane Industry, Crystal 5

Wednesday, November 19

8:00 to 9:45 am Fire Modeling Study of Alcohol-Based Hand Hygiene Solutions, McKinley
10:15 am to 12 noon Special Events in Your Town: What Do We Do Differently Now That We Have "Homeland Security," Tahoe Ballroom
1:30 pm Technical Committee Sessions

IFMA Executive Board

John F. Bender, *President*
Chief Fire Protection Engineer
Maryland State Fire Marshals Office
300 East Joppa Road, Suite 1002
Towson, MD 21286
(410) 339-4200 Fax (410) 339-4215
Email jfbender@mdsp.org

Scott Adams, *First Vice President*
Fire Marshal
Park City Fire District
1333 Park Avenue
Park City, UT 84068-0967
(435) 649-6706 Fax (435) 658-5247
E-mail sadams@pcfd.org

Jon Nisja, *Second Vice President*
Supervisor
Minnesota State Fire Marshals Office
444 Cedar Street, Suite 145
St. Paul, MN 55101-5145
(651) 762-0883 Fax (651) 215-0525
E-mail jon.nisja@state.mn.us

Jimmy Hill, *Secretary*
Deputy Chief/Fire Marshal
Los Angeles City Fire Department
200 N. Main Street, Room 91
Los Angeles, CA 90012
(213) 485-5969 Fax (213) 847-3447
E-mail jhh5903@lafd.lacity.org

Ron R. Farr, *Immediate Past President*
Fire Chief
Kalamazoo Township Fire Department
1720 Riverview Drive
Kalamazoo Township, MI 49004
(269) 381-8080 Fax (269) 381-3550
E-mail rfarr895@aol.com

Charles "Ed" Altizer *Term Expires 5/04*
State Fire Marshal
VA Dept. of Housing & Community Dev
501 N. 2nd Street
Richmond, VA 23219-1321
(804) 371-7153 Fax (804) 371-7092
E-mail ealtizer@dhcd.state.va.us

Don Goff *Term Expires 5/05*
Fire Marshal
Hillsborough County Fire Department
3210 South 78th Street
Tampa, FL 33602
(813) 744-5541 Fax (813) 744-5719
E-mail goffd@hillsboroughcounty.org

Bonnie Howe *Term Expires 5/05*
Fire Marshal
Goodyear Fire Department
P.O. Box 5100
Goodyear, Arizona 85338
(623) 932-2300 Fax (623) 536-7538
E-mail bhowe@ci.goodyear.az.us

R.T. "Whitey" Leicht *Term Expires 5/04*
Chief Fire Protection Engineer
Delaware State Fire Marshals Office
P.O. Box 5069
Marshallton, DE 19808
(302) 323-5365 Fax (302) 323-5366
E-mail deputy44@aol.com

Steven F. Sawyer, *Executive Secretary*
NFPA
1 Batterymarch Park
Quincy, MA 02269-9101
(617) 984-7423 Fax (617) 984-7056
E-mail ssawyer@nfpa.org

IFMA Chapters

Alabama Chapter
Hartley Brokenshaw, President
(251) 968-1169 Fax (251) 968-1186

Alberta Chapter
Murray Miles, President
(780) 496-3860 Fax (780) 496-3763

Arizona Fire Marshals Association
Craig Martens, President
(928) 453-3313 Fax (928) 453-3312

Delaware Valley Chapter
Frank Fenton, President
(215) 357-6800 Fax (215) 357-1251

Fire Marshals Association of Colorado
Jerry Stricker
(303) 384-8093 Fax (303) 384-8089

Fire Marshals Association of Minnesota
Bob James, President
(952) 563-8968 Fax (952) 563-8949

Fire Marshals Association of Oklahoma
Jeff Lindsay, President
(405) 793-5110 Fax (405) 793-5216

Florida Fire Marshals & Inspectors Association
Don Goff, President
(813) 744-5541 Fax (813) 744-5794

Illinois Fire Inspectors Association
Dick Davis, President
(708) 343-6124 Fax (780) 343-9078

Michigan Fire Inspectors Society
Wally Schroder, President
(616) 381-8080 Fax (616) 381-3550

New England Association of Fire Marshals
Bruce Martin, President
(860) 953-8810 Fax (860) 953-8373

New Jersey Fire Prevention and Protection Association
John Lightbody, President
(732) 240-5153 Fax (732) 240-6703

New York State Fire Marshals and Inspectors Association
William Timmons, President
(914) 734-1015 Fax (716) 247-0017

North Carolina Fire Marshals Association
Ken Crews, President
(919) 560-4242 x234 Fax (919) 856-1094

Oregon Chapter
Joe Pedrola, President
(541) 673-5503 Fax (541) 673-5505

South Carolina Chapter
John Reich, President
(803) 733-8549 Fax (803) 733-8311

Tennessee Chapter
Bob Trotter, President
(615) 791-3270 Fax (615) 591-5615

Texas Fire Marshals Association
Bill Dunfield, President
(972) 547-7654 Fax (972) 542-8745

Utah Chapter
David Berg, President
(435) 649-6706 x1307 Fax (435) 658-5247

Washington Chapter
David Lynam, President
(360) 397-2186 Fax (360) 397-2076

West Virginia Chapter
Edwin Blehschmidt, President
(304) 559-9412 Fax (304) 293-7281

Fire Marshals Quarterly

The mission of the International Fire Marshals Association is to aid in the preservation of life and property by advocating, promoting and providing leadership in the prevention or mitigation of fire, explosions and other related hazardous conditions.

IFMA was incorporated in 1906. In 1927, IFMA became a membership section of NFPA.

Published quarterly as a service to the membership of the International Fire Marshals Association (IFMA). The articles published in the Quarterly are the opinion of the authors and not necessarily the opinion of IFMA or NFPA.

Editor: Steven F. Sawyer
Co-Editor: Amy Sturtevant

IFMA
1 Batterymarch Park
Quincy, MA 02269-9101
(617) 984-7424 Fax (617) 984-7056
E-mail ifma@nfpa.org

President's Corner



John F. Bender

As we approach the upcoming holidays, our thoughts naturally turn toward family and friends. It is an opportunity to share some quality time with those we love and to reflect upon our accomplishments and plans for the future.

It is a time to be thankful for our blessings, the freedoms we enjoy, and the deep appreciation we feel toward those who have served, and continue to serve, to ensure our happiness, prosperity, safety, and security. We especially honor and remember those who have sacrificed their lives on our behalf. To the families of these true heroes, we offer our humble, but inadequate, thanks, admiration, and blessings.

On October 5th, my wife, Ruth, and I were honored and privileged to represent IFMA at the Annual National Fallen Firefighter's Memorial Service in Emmitsburg. It was a most impressive, respectful, and meaningful tribute to our fallen firefighters, their families, and the departments they represented. For me, I think the following comment about one of the fallen firefighters reflected the spirit of the occasion: "It is not how he died that made him a hero; it is how he lived."

As I think about the IFMA family, I am thankful for the dedicated and hardworking members that we have, including those in our regional chapters, and the partnerships that we have developed.

Our members are the backbone, heart, and soul of our organization. I often think about them and appreciate them for the job that they do day- in and day- out. I think about the tremendous responsibility for public safety that they assume and what we can do as an association to provide the opportunity, training, and resources they need to carry out their duties in a knowledgeable and professional manner, with respect, integrity, and compassion.

There is no doubt these are challenging times, perhaps the most challenging in recent memory. Budgets and staffing have been drastically reduced and resources are scarce. At the same time, our responsibilities and workload have increased. Social, political, and technological changes have generated new, often complex and perplexing problems. The demand to "maximize our limited resources" is now a common refrain.

(Continued on page 4)

Executive Secretary's Report



Steven F. Sawyer

As you can see from the cover, IFMA is going to be busy at the Annual Fire Marshals Conference in Reno, Nevada. In addition to the NFPA meeting, the Western Fire Chiefs will be meeting in the same hotel at the same time. If you are at either meeting, please be sure to stop by the IFMA activities and the Hospitality Room. We hope to see you there.

IFMA has submitted a TIA to NFPA 101, *Life Safety Code*, asking that all existing nursing homes be sprinklered. The TIA was submitted after the Hartford fire and before the Nashville fire. Please send letters in support of the TIA to the NFPA Standards Council, 1 Batterymarch Park, Quincy, MA 02169. We need letters of support from organizations, departments, and individuals to assist IFMA in pushing this issue forward.

IFMA has been busy on many fronts as outlined by President Bender. We continue to promote IFMA's goals every chance we get and it seems to be working.

We have two new chapter applications that should be approved in November and one outstanding application. This would make 23 chapters. Stay tuned to future issues on the status of these applications.

We are pleased to be part of the USFA PARADE organization. Thanks to those IFMA members who accepted the board's invitation to represent IFMA on the Regions. IFMA had all its representatives agree to attend and participate in the meeting.

We wish our President's wife Ruth a speedy recovery. As the holiday seasons approach, we wish everyone a safe and joyous holiday season.

(Continued from page 3)

In response to this challenge, your IFMA Executive Board is focused even more on the development and renewal of strong partnerships. Experience has taught us that partnerships are vital to our growth and success. Fortunately, over the years, IFMA has enjoyed some strong partnerships.

Without question our strongest partner is, most appropriately, the NFPA. After all, IFMA, formerly the Fire Marshals Association of North America (FMANA), was the first membership section of NFPA and we will soon celebrate our 100th Anniversary! We remain sincerely grateful to the NFPA for all the support they have given us over all these years, and continue to do so.

We have also developed close relationships with the other NFPA membership sections, such as the Fire Service and Education sections, that continue to prove mutually rewarding. Other continuing partnerships include the Society of Fire Protection Engineers, the National Association of State Fire Marshals, and the Congressional Fire Services Caucus, to name just a few.

More recently, we have renewed and strengthened our relationship with the U.S. Fire Administration (USFA) and are looking forward to the "grand opening" of the PARADE (Prevention Advocacy Resources and Data Exchange) Conference, November 21–25, 2003, at the National Fire Academy. This is a major new initiative by the USFA to focus on fire prevention programs and fire marshal responsibilities. IFMA is proud to serve on the steering committee along with several other fire service organizations to help plan this first biannual national conference.

This past August, it was my honor and pleasure to travel to Dallas to welcome the formation of the Fire and Life Safety Section of the International Association of Fire Chiefs (IAFC). We extend our congratulations and best wishes to Chief Jackie Gibbs of the Marietta (GA) Fire Department as he assumes the chair of this new section, along with the other members of his board of directors. The IFMA Executive Board previously met with Chief Gibbs and we look forward to a mutually productive and rewarding relationship.

Partnerships, by definition, involve a two-way relationship. As you can imagine, like any friendship, it takes a certain level of commitment, time, energy, and understanding to "grow" the relationship for the benefit of each party. I am pleased to report that your IFMA Executive Board is committed to ensure that we continue to value and nurture our partnerships for the benefit of all concerned.

As you can see in this issue of *Fire Marshal's Quarterly*, there are plenty of opportunities for education, professional development, and participation in the code development process. If you are fortunate enough to be able to attend the NFPA Fall Conference in Reno you have an array of seminars to choose from on a current or future topic of interest affecting our profession. Our Executive Secretary, Steven Sawyer, along with your Executive Board, continue to work hard to plan and facilitate these programs. It really is a team effort! I hope that you will be able to take advantage of these opportunities for your benefit and the benefit of your organization and IFMA.

To all of our members and partners, on behalf of the entire Executive Board, I wish you and your families a happy and safe holiday season and much success in the New Year!

Looking for Information on Special Effects

As chair of NFPA's Technical Committee on Special Effects I would like to request your input regarding NFPA 160, *Standard for Flame Effects Before an Audience*. With the number of traveling shows utilizing Flame Effects, I would like to know how you deal with each of the shows. Do you utilize NFPA 160 or another code or standard? What quantities of fuel do you allow within a public assembly building for the Flame Effects? What changes need to be made to NFPA 160? Would it be helpful to include a checklist similar to the one in NFPA 1 for doing your inspections of Flame Effects? What requirements do you look for from the operators of Flame Effects? Send your information to me through our NFPA staff liaison: Guy Colonna at gcolonna@nfpa.org.

Thank you, G. Clark Parkhurst, Jr. Chair, Special Effects Technical Committee

Chapter Spotlight

Fire Marshals Association of Delaware Valley Chapter 6

In April 1990, a small group of approximately 20 interested parties gathered in the Talleyville Fire House in Delaware to decide if a local chapter of the Fire Marshals Association of North America was feasible. The meeting was chaired by then Delaware State Fire Marshal Ben Roy and all agreed that a chapter would be an asset to all fire marshals in the area, not just those that were members of FMANA.

The purpose of the Fire Marshals Association of Delaware Valley was established early in the life of the Chapter. The purpose was to include the following:

- To unite for mutual benefit of those officials primarily engaged in the prevention of fire and/or the control of arson in the Delaware Valley.
- To act as a central agency for the exchange of information among its members.
- To assist fire marshals in the conduct of their professional activities.
- To correlate the activities of fire marshals in the reduction of fire loss in the Delaware Valley.

The initial years of the organization was quite successful with membership embracing officials from Delaware, east Maryland, southeast Pennsylvania, and southern New Jersey. There are three classes of membership that allows non-officials with similar interests to join the Chapter with a limited participation. This action turns out to be quite an asset. The information provided by fire protection contractors and business owners who are affected by the codes is invaluable.

The organization had grown to a membership of nearly 170 members and meets presently four times a year. An open newsletter is produced for the membership every other month and contains personal activities of the members, a schedule of upcoming events, updates on codes and standards, legislative activities in the region, and technical articles regarding the fields of investigation, inspection, and public fire education. It also serves as a conduit for the members to preach or solicit concerns that they have.

The Chapter encourages involvement on the national forefront and has members active with the Congressional Fire Services Caucus, Society of Fire Protection Engineers, and National Fire Protection Association, with over 15 NFPA technical committees represented by Chapter members. This latter voluntary activity helps to increase a better understanding of the code development processes.

The Chapter also advocates on-going training and promotes fire prevention seminars and classes throughout the region. Annually, the Chapter is one of six or seven local fire association that coordinates a joint fire protection event every spring.

The Fire Marshals Association of the Delaware Valley prints a directory of members that includes past presidents, the By-Laws and Constitution, and the current Executive Committee. A 10-man Executive Committee governs the Chapter and the annual meeting of the Chapter is held the month prior to the annual meeting of IFMA.

Most of the successes of the Chapter are attributed to the support we have received from the employees of NFPA, IFMA and its Executive Board, and other chapters that have shared their ideas at the annual meeting of chapters with the Executive Board of IFMA. It would be unfair not to share our special and sincere thanks to Steven Sawyer, the Executive Secretary of IFMA, for all his work and support of our Chapter.

The Chapter looks forward to continued growth and progress in the years to come.

CPSC Launches Fire and Police Professional Consumer Product Incident Report Site

The U.S. Consumer Products Safety Commission (CPSC) has developed an online form for use by fire and police agencies to report victim-related injuries and deaths involving consumer products or unsafe products. The site is www.cpsc.gov/fpinc.html.

Program Helps Bring Fire Detectors to Those in Need

*By Roxann Moore, Staff Reporter
The Delaware Wave*

A new hard-wire smoke detector program aimed at ensuring detectors are installed in private residences throughout the state is well underway. It is an ambitious goal established by fire officials and enacted upon by legislators, but it is one they are committed to achieving, according to Delaware State Fire Marshal Bill Preston.

He said the program was enacted last year by Delaware's General Assembly in response to a 2001 house fire in Oak Orchard that claimed the lives of 11 people. Seven of those victims were children between the ages of 11 months to 9 years old.

Through this program, lawmakers put money aside to provide hard-wire smoke detectors with battery back-ups and pay the cost of having them installed by certified installers in every qualified home, Preston said. Hard-wire smoke detectors are like most detectors in performance. The difference is these detectors are powered by electricity from the house with a battery back-up in the event of a power outage. "What we are finding, four times this year already, people have a detector present with no battery in them," Preston said. Many times, lack of a battery is because of a homeowner taking it out to be used for something else. "Usually," Preston said, "people intend to replace it but never do. Such an oversight could cost them their lives or their home."

Such was the case in the 2001 Oak Orchard fire. Patrick Miller, a local volunteer firefighter, was one of the first responders to the Oak Orchard alarm more than two years ago. He said it was a tragedy that could have been avoided. There were two smoke detectors in the home, but the batteries had been removed.

"It's not something that you easily forget," he said of the fire. "I still have vivid memories of those children being carried out as CPR was being performed. It's not something you want to reminisce."

"With the hard-wire smoke detectors, using both electric and a battery back-up, there is a better chance of people escaping fires safely," Preston said. And, hard-wire smoke detectors are required in all newly constructed homes.

"Normally with installations after 1993, they are all interconnected," he added. "If one goes off, they all go off." The detectors in this program are individually installed so that during a fire, the unit closest to the event will sound.

As far as the installation process, Preston said it is "very, very simple."

"This was a concern at first," he added. "There's a single hole. A no-muss, no-fuss installation." Officials have four certified installers throughout the state to install the devices. All individual homeowners need to do is call the State Fire Marshal's office and provide their name, address, and contact number. Someone will contact them, and the process begins. Most people can expect the hard-wire detector to be in and operational within 30 days. In the meantime, if they do not have smoke detectors, fire officials will install a battery operated unit. Interested persons should note, however, that the program is designed to first assist elderly and disabled residents whose homes do not have smoke detectors. "These are not limiting factors, but these individuals are first," Preston said.



Zippo Responds

August 25, 2003

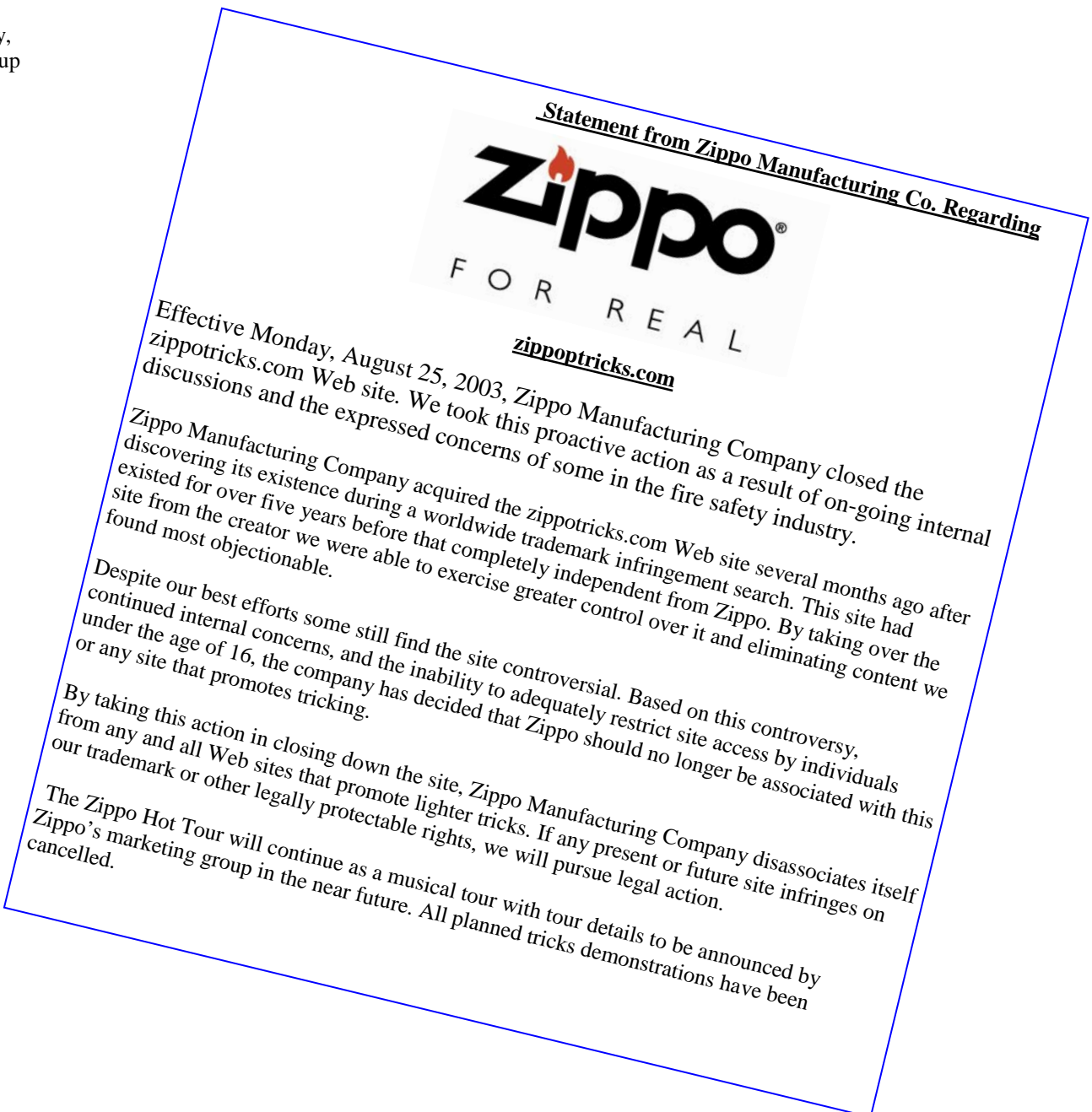
Dear Mr. Bender,

You have contacted us recently to share your concerns about Zippo tricks and we appreciate your taking the time to write to us.

Today Zippo has announced a new position regarding Zippo tricks and we wanted to share this information with you. Please see the attached statement.

Thank you for your interest in Zippo.

Sincerely,
Mark Paup



NFPA AND USFA PROVIDE SMOKE ALARMS FOR EVERY HOME IN HOLMES COUNTY, MISSISSIPPI. NFPA, USFA, local leaders mark Fire Prevention Week with smoke alarm installations

One year after a deadly home fire killed six children in Holmes County, Mississippi, national organizations and local leaders are working together to prevent a similar tragedy. The NFPA, the U.S. Fire Administration (USFA), and the Mississippi High-Risk Fire Safety Task Force have joined together to provide and install nearly 9,000 smoke alarms in homes throughout the entire county. This project will put a smoke alarm in every home in Holmes County, one of the most impoverished areas in the nation.

NFPA President and CEO James M. Shannon and community leaders announced the program today at the Tchula, Mississippi, Fire Department as part of Fire Prevention Week (October 5–11).

Mississippi, and especially Holmes County, has been hardest hit by fire deaths in homes without working smoke alarms. Of more than 50 fire deaths recently investigated in Mississippi by the state Office of the Fire Marshal, not one occurred in a home with a working smoke alarm.

“All of us at NFPA have dedicated our professional lives to helping to prevent tragedies such as the Tchula fire,” said Shannon, of the nonprofit NFPA. “There is no question, that working smoke alarms can save lives. And, by providing every home in the county with a working smoke alarm, this program will help to keep families safer.”

“We are pleased to be working with NFPA and the Mississippi High-Risk Fire Safety Task Force to provide Holmes County with these smoke alarms,” said Ken Burris, FEMA regional director. “We hope that this unique effort will also help to teach residents about the importance of fire safety in the home.”

Following the Tchula fire last year, Holmes County leaders established the Mississippi High-Risk Fire Safety Task Force to provide children and older adults with fire safety educational programs; ensure that every household in Holmes County has a working smoke alarm; increase fire safety awareness; address problems of fire and fire hazards in housing; and review and improve fire safety codes and legislation in the area.

Representatives from the NFPA, USFA, Mississippi High-Risk Fire Safety Task Force, and community volunteers began installing the smoke alarms today. It is expected that it will take six to nine months to install all 9,000 smoke alarms.

Looking for Fire Marshal Job Descriptions

A new technical committee has been formed to develop professional qualifications for fire marshals. The committee recognizes the diversity of job descriptions available for those who call themselves "fire marshal." A great deal of effort will be made trying to achieve a consensus document that can be used by the widest possible group—and concurrently as a benchmark for those aspiring to the position. You can help by sending job descriptions used for the position of fire marshal (manager or head of department) directly to the committee chair: Jim Crawford, Fire Marshal, Vancouver Fire Department, 900 West Evergreen Blvd., Vancouver, WA 98660; (360) 759-4410; (360) 696-8163 fax; jim.crawford@ci.vancouver.wa.us.



Fire Prevention Week, 2003
By the President of the United States of America
A Proclamation

More than 1.7 Million fires strike American homes, parks, and businesses each year. This devastation costs lives, causes injuries, ruins property, and disrupts businesses. While fires are powerful and destructive, many fires are preventable. During Fire Prevention Week, we join with our Nation's first responders to help prevent fires and ensure the safety of our homes and communities.

As the official sponsor of Fire Prevention Week, the National Fire Protection Association is joining forces with the Department of Homeland Security's Federal Emergency Management Agency and the U.S. Fire Administration to emphasize the importance of being prepared to protect ourselves, our families, and our communities. This year's Fire Prevention Week theme is "When Fire Strikes: Get Out! Stay Out!"

Across our country, most fire-related deaths occur where people feel safest—in their own homes. National surveys reveal that most Americans underestimate the risk of fire in their homes and lack an emergency response plan. Fires can grow quickly, and individuals may have as few as 2 minutes to evacuate. Working smoke detectors give people more time to escape fires. At least 94 percent of American homes are equipped with smoke alarms, yet most home fire deaths happen in homes where smoke alarms are not working. By installing and maintaining working smoke alarms on every level of the home, having a fire emergency response plan, and evacuating if the alarm sounds, families and individuals can be ready to respond to a fire.

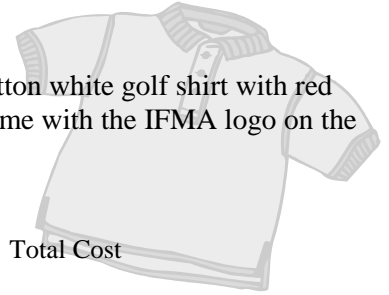
This week also reminds us of the dangers that brave first responders face as they risk their lives to fight fires and protect our communities, our people, and our natural resources. Our fire services respond to more than 20 million emergency calls a year. Americans are grateful for their courage, skill, and commitment to public safety, and we honor the sacrifice of those who have been injured or killed in their efforts to protect us. Through fire safety and prevention, we can save lives, including those of our firefighters and other first responders.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, GEORGE W. BUSH, President of the United States of America, by virtue of the authority vested in me by the Constitution and laws of the United States, do hereby proclaim October 5 through October 11, 2003, as Fire Prevention Week. On Sunday, October 5, 2003, in accordance with Public Law 107-51, flags will be flown at half staff on all Federal office buildings in honor of the National Fallen Firefighters Memorial Service. I urge all Americans to protect their homes by installing smoke detectors where needed and regularly checking their existing smoke detectors. These small efforts will help make our communities safer for all.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand this third day of October, in the year of our Lord two thousand three, and of the Independence of the United States of America the two hundred and twenty-eighth.
GEORGE W. BUSH

**IFMA Merchandise
Order Form**

IFMA has a line of merchandise to promote the association. They include a new 100% cotton white golf shirt with red and blue striped collar and sleeves and a blue nylon windshirt with hand pockets, both come with the IFMA logo on the left breast.



Golf Shirt - \$30.00 each, includes postage and handling

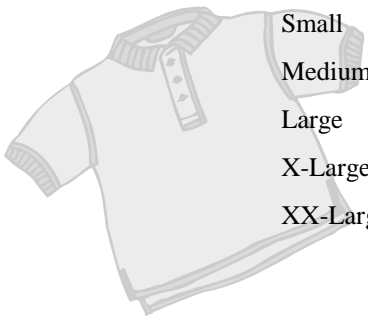
Size	Number	Cost	Total Cost
Small		\$30.00	
Medium	_____	\$30.00	_____
Large	_____	\$30.00	_____
X-Large	_____	\$30.00	_____
XX-Large	_____	\$30.00	_____

Lapel Pin - \$3.00 each, includes postage and handling

Number	Cost	Total Cost
_____	\$3.00	_____

Wind Shirt - \$40.00 each, includes postage and handling

Size	Number	Cost	Total Cost
Small		\$40.00	
Medium	_____	\$40.00	_____
Large	_____	\$40.00	_____
X-Large	_____	\$40.00	_____
XX-Large	_____	\$40.00	_____



Grand Total: \$ _____

Check enclosed; *please make payable to IFMA*

Charge my credit card. MasterCard Visa American Express

Card #: _____ Card Exp. Date: _____

Signature: _____

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Phone: _____

Please mail or fax to:

IFMA
1 Batterymarch Park
Quincy, MA 02269
Fax 617-984-7056

THINK FIRE SAFETY BEFORE AGREEING TO YOUR CHILD'S REQUEST TO SLEEPOVER

As kids head back to school, new classmates will be met and the sleepover invitations are being extended. NFPA suggests parents and caregivers learn about fire safety plans in the homes that their children want to do sleepovers in, especially when they have not visited the home where the sleepover will take place.

“Before a sleepover, take the time to ask whether the family has a fire escape plan and working smoke alarms,” says Judy Comoletti, assistant vice president for public education for NFPA. Comoletti is reinforcing this important safety advice in light of this year’s Fire Prevention Week campaign, “When Fire Strikes: Get Out! Stay Out!”

For more than 80 years, NFPA has been the official sponsor of Fire Prevention Week, held October 5–11 this year.

Fire Prevention Week 2003 focuses on one of the most critical components of home fire escape planning because a home fire can grow and spread so rapidly, it is crucial to move quickly in a fire emergency. Knowing how and where to go are essential to survival, and every household needs working smoke alarms and a well-rehearsed escape plan to give them extra time to get out safely.

According to NFPA, eight out of 10 fire deaths take place in the home, with the majority of home fire deaths occurring late at night. Comoletti advises asking a few simple questions like whether the home is equipped with working alarms, are there two ways out of the sleeping area, and is the sleepover to be supervised by an adult.

NFPA is offering a free, downloadable Sleepover Safety Checklist to help parents and caregivers consider the hazards, and make decisions about slumber parties and sleepovers. Access the checklist and all the 2003 Fire Prevention Week materials at www.firepreventionweek.org.

NFPA 30, *FLAMMABLE AND COMBUSTIBLE LIQUIDS CODE*[™], IS ONE OF FOUR DOCUMENTS ADDED TO NFPA'S FREE ONLINE ACCESS COLLECTION

Four more consensus codes and standards have been added to NFPA’s collection of codes, standards and reference materials posted for free review as a public service on the organization’s Web site. The materials can be viewed on demand at www.nfpa.org.

The 2003 edition of NFPA 30, *Flammable and Combustible Liquids Code*[™], provides enforcing officials, design engineers, and insurers with reasonable requirements for the safe storage and handling of flammable and combustible liquids. Adopted in 34 states, NFPA 30 is the basis for rules of the Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA).

The 2003 edition of NFPA 30A, *Code for Motor Fuel Dispensing Facilities and Repair Garages*, provides fuel dispensing stations and service stations with reasonable safeguards for dispensing motor fuels for automotive vehicles as well as marine craft. The code is adopted in 33 states. Both NFPA 30 and NFPA 30A are part of the Comprehensive Consensus Codes set (C3), which is the first set of construction-related codes developed through processes accredited by the American National Standards Institute (ANSI).

NFPA 909, *Code for Protection of Cultural Resources*, is intended for culturally significant structures and their contents. The code establishes requirements for providing fire protection and fire safety to a wide range of cultural institutions including libraries, museums, and places of worship.

NFPA 914, *Code for Fire Protection of Historic Structures*, covers fire safety protection provisions for historic structures and their occupants and operators. The code includes the unique requirements necessary for renovation and restoration when preservation of historic character is desired.

These new postings round out a list that includes NFPA 1, *Uniform Fire Code*[™], NFPA 5000[™], *Building Construction and Safety Code*[™], NFPA 1403, *Standard on Live Fire Evolutions*, as well as three NFPA hazardous materials incident documents (NFPA 471, 472, and 473), two protective ensemble standards (NFPA 1951 and 1994), and supplements from NFPA’s Hazardous Materials Response Handbook. All NFPA codes, standards, and recommended practices can also be purchased online in electronic or print format.

IFMA/NFPA Spring 2003 Regional Fire Code Development Committee Meetings

To encourage greater fire service participation in the NFPA Codes and Standards Making System, NFPA has established four Regional Fire Code Development Committees. The members of these committees are from the fire service in your area. The committees are responsible for developing proposals for changes to NFPA Codes and Standards, reviewing the Report on Proposals (ROP) and developing comments on proposed changes, and act as liaisons to their region's fire service for inputting changes to NFPA Codes and Standards.

Please mark you calendars for the Spring 2004 Regional Fire Code Development Committee Meeting dates and locations. Further information on codes and standards to be addressed and hotel information will be forthcoming.

Northcentral

March 2–3, 2004, Indianapolis, IN.

Northeastern

March 9–10, 2004, Baltimore, MD

Southern

March 16–17, 2004, Albuquerque, NM

Western

March 23–24, 2004, Seattle, WA

There is no cost to attend the meeting. You are responsible for all costs associated with your travel. For more information go to www.nfpa.org/ifma.

NFPA REPORT: HOME FIRE DEATHS DOWN SHARPLY IN 2002 Death toll down more than half since 1977

The number of people who died in home fires dropped an exceptional 14.1 percent last year compared to 2001, according to the annual report on fire loss by the NFPA. The NFPA study found that 2,670 people died in home fires in 2002, the lowest number that NFPA has ever recorded.

The latest results continue a decades-long trend toward safer homes. The home fire death toll in 2002 was 54 percent lower than in 1977 when comparable statistics were first developed. The reduction is especially significant because home is where one is most likely to die in a fire: Four out of five fire deaths occur in the home.

“We can thank fire professionals around the country who have worked to protect and educate the public,” said John R. Hall, Ph.D., NFPA’s assistant vice president for fire analysis and research, “and we can congratulate each other for our collective progress in choosing fire safety.”

The NFPA analyzed survey results from 3,460 fire departments in the United States. The study found that 1.69 million fires were reported to America’s 30,000+ fire departments in 2002, a decrease of 2.7 percent from 2001. About half the fires occurred outside, 30 percent in structures and 20 percent in vehicles.

Among the structure fires, three out of four happened in homes—that is, one- and two-family dwellings and apartments. Home fires were also responsible for 79 percent of total civilian fire deaths. Overall, there were 3,380 civilian fire deaths in 2002, a decrease of 9.8 percent from the previous year, exclusive of fires connected to the Sept. 11 terrorist attacks. (“Civilian” refers to anyone who is not a firefighter.) Nationwide in 2002, a fire department responded to a fire every 19 seconds, and a civilian died in a fire every 2 hours.

“These statistics show that we have learned the lessons of fire safety, and hundreds of our friends and loved ones are alive as a

(Continued on page 14)

FEMA UNVEILS UNIQUE ONLINE BOARD GAME TO TEST CHILDREN'S DISASTER KNOWLEDGE

The Department of Homeland Security's Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) is unveiling today a new, interactive Web-based board game for children—as part of the agency's ongoing commitment to educating young people about disaster preparedness and risk reduction. The board game, called Disaster Discovery, is located on the agency's FEMA for Kids Web site.

“The more prepared and knowledgeable children are about disasters, the safer they are and it's easier for them and their families to recover,” said Michael D. Brown, Under Secretary of Homeland Security for Emergency Preparedness and Response. “Our FEMA for Kids Web site is a novel approach to disaster information and the new game will help keep children's interest and enhance the likelihood they'll retain what they've learned.”

The game, at <http://www.fema.gov/kids/games/board>, can be played online or downloaded and played on a home or school computer. It can also be printed out and played in “hard copy.” Macromedia's Flash player is required to play the online version of the game; the free software can be downloaded through the site.

The board game includes different sections, including Tornado Alley and Quake Country. A player is moved forward when correctly answering disaster-related questions, all of which are based on information from the site. Hazard! Cards also send a player forward or backward depending on different disaster scenarios.

The FEMA for Kids Web site debuted in 1997, as part of a strategy to involve children in helping families, schools, and communities become better prepared for and more knowledgeable about disasters. It was one of the first government sites created specifically for youngsters.

FEMA for Kids has been a successful site, garnering millions of visitors and dozens of awards. Games were included on the site from the onset in order to retain child visitors for as long as possible. Strong colors and interesting graphics were also employed to lure youngsters to the site. The site was created for fourth- through sixth-graders, with some sections suitable for younger children. Many older children—and even adults—have also found the site useful. A separate section for parents and teachers provides classroom activities, disaster-related curriculum, and relevant links.

IFMA Membership Directory

We are in the process of updating the IFMA Membership Directory. As part of this process we need an opt-out clause for those who wish not to be listed in the directory. If you do not want to be included in the directory, please send an e-mail to ifma@nfpa.org and we will make sure that you are not listed.

(Continued from page 17)

Member Agencies & Organizations:

- *American Burn Association (ABA)
- *American Insurance Association (AIA)
- *American Red Cross (ARC)
- *Congressional Fire Services Institute (CFSI)
- *U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD)
- *Home Safety Council
- *Indian Health Service (IHS)
- *International Association of Fire Chiefs (IAFC)
- *International Fire Marshals Association (IFMA)
- *National Association of State Fire Marshals (NASFM)
- *National Fire Protection Association (NFPA)
- *National SAFE KIDS Campaign (SAFE KIDS)
- *Underwriters Laboratory (UL)

NFPA'S RESEARCH FOUNDATION EXAMINES HOW QUICKLY SMOKE INCAPACITATES **Study aims to assure escape from burning buildings**

A recent study by the Fire Protection Research Foundation of the NFPA has advanced an international effort to make certain that people can escape a burning building before being overcome by smoke. The work is part of a revolution in fire safety in which codes and standards are beginning to address how much smoke will incapacitate people, rather than how much will kill them.

“For most of the history of fire science and fire safety, our efforts have focused on how much smoke would kill a person,” explained Rick Mulhaupt, Research Foundation president. “Now, we’re recognizing that many people die in fires—not because smoke killed them on the spot—but because smoke or heat prevented them from getting out of the building.”

In 2002, the ISO (International Organization for Standardization), a network of the industrial-standards institutes of 147 countries, put forth a new standard calling for attention to the “sublethal” effects of smoke—when the heat, the thickness of smoke, and the toxic gases in smoke will block vision, make a person choke or tear up, or render a person unconscious. Because of this new ISO standard, these effects of smoke are supposed to be taken into account when regulating the size and placement of exits and the types of materials allowed in buildings.

But to meet the standard, one needs to know more about the smoke produced by burning various materials. That is where the Research Foundation comes in. Working with the National Institute of Standards and Technology, the Research Foundation is laying the scientific groundwork needed to put the new standard into practice. The foundation recently completed the project’s second phase of its International Study of the Sublethal Effects of Fire Smoke on Survivability and Health.

In the most recent phase of the study, the foundation’s researchers performed three tests: They burned a sofa made of upholstered cushions on a steel frame, some particle board bookcases, and some household cable. In each case, the materials were burned in a room with a long adjacent corridor.

The researchers measured the toxic gases emitted by each item, and how quickly the gases filled the room and moved down the corridor. They determined when and where in the room and in the hallway people would have to stop because of the smoke or the heat.

Fire-test laboratories and manufacturers are expected to use this data to develop smaller-scale tests that can be done in a laboratory, so they won’t need to set a room on fire every time they test a product.

NFPA’s Fire Protection Research Foundation is uniquely equipped to conduct such studies, and NFPA officials expect more lives to be saved because of the new fire safety standards that will emerge from this work.

(Continued from page 12)

result,” Hall said. “But there is even more we can and must do, so that everyone complies with codes and standards, buys safe products and knows how to use them safely, makes sure homes have working smoke alarms, and practices home escape plans. And many lives could be saved if more homes were equipped with sprinkler systems.”

Not only did fewer people die in fires in 2002, but fewer were injured. There were 18,425 civilian injuries in fires, a decrease of 9.2 percent from 2001 and the lowest number since 1977. Three-quarters of these injuries occurred in homes. Fire also caused an estimated \$10.3 billion in direct property damage, a decrease of 2.2 percent (excluding the events of Sept. 11). More than half the total property loss also occurred in homes.

A condensed version of the NFPA report, *Fire Loss in the United States During 2002*, also has information on intentionally set fires and can be obtained by logging on to www.nfpa.org/research/onestopdatashop/onestopdatashop.asp.

CALIFORNIA ADOPTS NFPA 5000™, BUILDING CONSTRUCTION AND SAFETY CODE™ AND NFPA 1, UNIFORM FIRE CODE™ NFPA codes will serve as basis for statewide model codes

The state of California has adopted model building and fire codes of the nonprofit NFPA to protect public safety in the nation's most populous state. The California Building Standards Commission voted last night to adopt NFPA 5000™, *Building Construction and Safety Code*™, and NFPA 1, *Uniform Fire Code*™ (NFPA 1, UFC). As a result of the Commission's action, the NFPA codes will provide the basis for the 2004 California Building Code and the 2004 California Fire Code.

"We are pleased that NFPA's model building and fire codes will be an important part of public safety in California," said James M. Shannon, president and CEO of the NFPA. "In addition to the codes themselves, we are committed to providing quality support services that will aid the state in the transition to these updated model codes."

The California state fire marshal recommended the adoption of NFPA 5000 and NFPA 1, UFC, after determining that NFPA codes would provide California with "higher levels of safety" than would building and fire codes developed by the International Code Council (ICC). The state fire marshal's office had conducted a detailed and extensive review of the building and fire codes developed by NFPA and ICC. That review pointed to specific code provisions and NFPA's consensus-based code development process as key reasons that California should use NFPA's model codes.

The fire marshal's report indicated that NFPA's process for developing the building and fire codes, "...has led to the promulgation of codes that our technical review has found to be superior with respect to the protection of public safety." NFPA's codes were also supported by the California Fire Chiefs Association, and the California Metropolitan Fire Chiefs Association, along with numerous other groups.

NFPA 5000 and NFPA 1, UFC, are elements of the Comprehensive Consensus Codes (C3) set—the first set of construction-related codes developed through processes accredited by the American National Standards Institute (ANSI). The C3 set also includes the Uniform Plumbing Code™ and Uniform Mechanical Code™, developed by the International Association of Plumbing and Mechanical Officials. NFPA facilitates the development of more than 300 building, fire, electrical, and life safety codes and standards. More than 6,500 volunteers serve on NFPA technical committees, writing NFPA model codes, standards, and recommended practices.

NFPA 1 Uniform Fire Code Proposal Closing Date

The NFPA 1 Uniform Fire Code is currently accepting proposals. The proposal closing date is January 5, 2004. Form can be obtained from www.nfpa.org or in the back of any NFPA code or standard.



NFPA REPORT: DEATHS FROM HOME HEATING FIRES REACH LOWEST LEVEL IN 20 YEARS But the United Kingdom and Canada are doing even better

The number of people who died in home fires involving heating equipment fell to the lowest level in 20 years, according to a new report by the NFPA.

In 1999, the most recent year for which statistics are available, home heating fires killed 301 people in the United States, by far the lowest number since NFPA started collecting such data in 1980. In contrast, the highest number of home-heating deaths in that 20-year span was 979 in 1985.

“People are heeding our safety messages and the fire problem continues to decline,” said John R. Hall, Jr., Ph.D., of NFPA’s fire analysis and research division. “But data from the United Kingdom and Canada, where the death rates are lower, show that we can do better. If everyone followed NFPA’s codes, standards, and safety recommendations, we could prevent most home-heating fire deaths.”

In the United Kingdom and Canada, where the heating season is longer, the number of home-heating fire deaths, relative to population, is considerably lower than in the United States. This is particularly noteworthy for Canada, a country like the United States in many ways and with a similar overall fire death rate.

An estimated 48,800 home-heating fires occurred in the United States in 1999, resulting in 1,383 civilian injuries and \$606.5 million in direct property damage.

Nearly two out of three home-heating fires and five out of six associated deaths involve devices other than central furnaces or water heaters. That’s because the hot surfaces of furnaces and water heaters tend to be farther away from people and things that can burn and because space heaters create more opportunities for human error. The most common problems leading to fires are failing to clean devices, placing them too close to combustible items, flaws in construction or design, and improper fueling.

Room gas heaters, portable kerosene heaters, and portable electric heaters have the greatest risk of death. Wood stoves or fireplaces with inserts have the greatest risk of property damage from fire. Although kerosene heaters are illegal in some states, the data do not show that they are clearly or consistently more dangerous than other kinds of space heaters.

All space heaters can be used safely if close attention is paid to the rules of safe installation, usage, and maintenance. NFPA makes these recommendations:

- When buying a new unit, make sure that a qualified technician installs the unit or checks that the unit has been installed properly.
- For wood or coal stoves or fireplaces, have a professional inspect the chimney, chimney connector, and other related equipment every year, and have them cleaned as often as the inspections indicate.
- Keep space heaters at least three feet (or one meter) away from anything that can burn.
- Fuel portable kerosene heaters in a well-ventilated area away from flames or other heat sources, and only when the device has cooled completely. Use only the type of kerosene specified by the manufacturer, and never use gasoline. Use only if such heaters are legal in your community.
- When turning a heating device on or off, follow the manufacturer’s instructions. When buying heaters, choose devices with automatic shut-off features.
- Make sure any gas-fueled heating device is adequately ventilated. Unventilated gas space heaters in bedrooms or bathrooms must be small and well-mounted. Never use liquefied-petroleum gas heaters with self-contained fuel supplies in the home.

FEMA ANNOUNCES NEW FIRE SAFETY RESOURCE TO ENHANCE FIRE SAFETY FEMA Joins with the Fire Safety Council to Announce www.firesafety.gov

As part of National Fire Prevention Week, the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) has joined with the Fire Safety Council (FSC) membership to announce plans to address the threat of fires in residential homes throughout the nation. The joint effort, which will focus initial efforts on the 5 million American homes without smoke alarms, will include a two-year pilot phase with focus on public fire safety education and awareness, as well as new research on fire safety technology for the home.

Though all of the partners have had smoke alarm installation programs, a joint effort combining knowledge and experiences from these programs has never before been attempted. Additionally, FEMA and the FSC are launching a Web site, www.firesafety.gov, to provide up-to-date information about program activities, prevention tips, and a special interactive page for children to learn about fire safety.

“This past weekend, I joined Secretary Tom Ridge and U.S. Fire Administrator Dave Paulison in a memorial service for the firefighters who lost their lives in 2002, risking personal harm to save the lives and property of their fellow citizens. That’s why it’s so critical that individuals and families heed the advice given during National Fire Prevention Week, and take steps to safeguard themselves against the deadly threat of fire,” said Michael D. Brown, Under Secretary of Homeland Security for Emergency Preparedness and Response. “Secretary Ridge and President Bush are committed to making this nation safe from fire and other hazards.”

Between 1977 and 2002, home fire deaths decreased two to three percent in the United States each year. Still, the NFPA reports that an estimated 2,670 people died in residential fires in 2002.

“Each year in this country, thousands of people are killed in home fires,” said Paulison, “The sad fact is that these deaths are preventable. Bringing these experts together to tackle this challenge will unite forces to make our homes safer, and further protect the lives of America’s firefighters.”

“The U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission has made significant progress in reducing fire-related deaths during the past 30 years,” said CPSC Chairman Hal Stratton. “We are continuing our efforts to further reduce fire deaths by focusing on the consumer products most often involved in these deaths—electrical products, upholstered furniture, mattresses, and heating equipment.”

The 16 FSC partners include government agencies and non-governmental organizations. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), the U.S. Fire Administration (USFA), and the U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission (CPSC) were the founding FSC partners and continue to serve as lead organizations for the partnership. Organizations interested in supporting the FSC should contact the USFA at 301.447.1853.

The CPSC protects the American public against unreasonable risks of injury associated with consumer products. Injuries and deaths resulting from fires receive particular emphasis in many of the agency’s activities, including data collection, voluntary and mandatory standards, and consumer information.

CDC protects people's health and safety by preventing and controlling diseases and injuries; enhances health decisions by providing credible information on critical health issues; and promotes healthy living through strong partnerships with local, national, and international organizations.

Fire Safety Council Member Agencies and Organizations

Lead Federal Partners:

- *U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC)
- *U.S. Department of Homeland Security, Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA), U.S. Fire Administration (USFA)
- *U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission (CPSC)

(Continued on page 13)

Report on National Residential Fire Sprinkler Initiative Available Encourages Installation of Sprinkler Systems to Reduce Damage and Losses from Fires

The U.S. Fire Administration (USFA) released a report today that outlines an agreement between the administration and national fire protection professionals advocating the use of fire suppression and sprinkler systems. The report, titled National Residential Fire Sprinkler Initiative, outlines specific national strategies that might reduce the number of deaths due to home fires each year. In particular the report draws attention to the aspect of localized fire suppression in high-risk areas of the home and residential sprinklers in buildings supported by the federal government.

"We know how important residential sprinkler systems are," said U.S. Fire Administrator R. David Paulison. "Every year, more than 3,000 people lose their lives in home fires, and most of those deaths are among the elderly, the disabled, the low income and the very young. Sprinkler systems are one way to reduce that number and to save the lives of community residents served by the nation's fire service."

The specific national strategies resulting from this meeting are to:

- * Develop an aggressive strategy for advocating sprinklers in residential buildings influenced or supported by the federal government,
- * Advocate localized sprinkler systems as a means of fire suppression in high-risk areas (e.g., kitchens) for retrofit applications,
- * Provide advocacy and informational support among stakeholders including state and local decision makers, and
- * Ensure that the USFA continues to support research and development in residential fire sprinkler technology.

Related to these strategies, several tasks were identified by the group and will be considered for future programs, including conducting additional national level meetings and forming two coalition groups of partners. One would be a federal group to effect proposed changes in federally subsidized, leased and owned residential units, and the other, an allied professional group to address the differences between sprinkler advocates and adversaries.

To download the report, please visit the USFA Web site at www.usfa.fema.gov/inside-usfa/media/o3-071503.shtm.

NFPA PRESIDENT CALLS FOR FIRE SPRINKLERS IN ALL NURSING HOMES recent tragedies show more must done to keep elderly, disabled safe

The president of NFPA called for all nursing homes in the United States to be equipped with fire sprinklers, in the wake of two recent nursing home fires in Hartford and Nashville, where a total of 24 people died.

In his statement, President James M. Shannon said that although the nursing home industry has made great strides in recent years to ensure residents are safe in the event of fire, more needs to be done. Sprinklers are already required in all new and many existing nursing homes, but where they are not yet required they must be added to the package of fire protection provided by existing codes and standards. He said nursing homes should be protected with more stringent fire protection because their residents are the least capable of saving themselves from fire.

Shannon said his call for action is independent and does not interfere with the time-honored code-development process through which NFPA codes and standards are developed and revised. NFPA codes are developed by the consensus of diverse, experienced volunteers who serve on various NFPA committees, including those that pertain to fire and other life safety.

"NFPA, as a century-old fire safety advocate, has an obligation to be an advocate and lead on issues crucial to safety, in this case, the need is for greater safety for nursing home residents," he said.

"These tragedies have taught us that we must do more to keep our elderly and disabled safe from fire. We know that fire sprinklers can control fires where they start and alleviate the burdens placed on staff to deal with the fire while relocating or evacuating patients," said Shannon. "Sprinklers must be included in our stock of existing nursing homes because it is evident that common fire

(Continued on page 19)



Just Released from the One-Stop Data Shop The Updated Report on Home Heating Fires.

The following is the executive summary from NFPA's annual report, *The Home Heating Fire Patterns and Trends*. For more information or to request a complimentary copy, contact Nancy Schwartz at 617-984-7450 or e-mail osds@nfpa.org. NFPA members can download a copy at www.nfpa.org/research/onestopdatashop/reports.causes/causes.asp.

The estimated 48,800 home heating equipment fires in 1999 killed 301 people, the lowest death toll by far in the 20 years studied (1980 through 1999). Home heating fires in 1999 also caused 1,383 civilian injuries and \$606.5 million dollars in direct property damage. All of these estimates refer only to U.S. fires reported to local fire departments.

Portable and fixed space heaters and related equipment (i.e., fireplaces, chimneys, and chimney connectors) accounted for roughly two of every three (64%) home heating fires in 1999 and five of every six (84%) associated deaths. Each of these devices has a higher rate of deaths per million households using them than do the various types of central heating units (i.e., furnaces) or water heaters. (When comparing the risk of fire relative to usage, heat transfer systems such as ducts and hot water piping, chimneys, and connectors, all are counted with the heating equipment they support.)

Portable and fixed space heaters pose a greater risk because they provide so many more opportunities for error by the people using them—in installing them, maintaining them, fueling them, operating them, and arranging household contents around them. Furnaces and water heaters require—and permit—fewer interventions by occupants. Causes of fires involving furnaces or water heaters are more likely to involve mechanical or electrical failures, while the causes of fires involving portable or fixed space heaters are dominated by human errors, such as heaters too close to combustibles and lack of maintenance.

Of the five most widely used types of portable or fixed space heaters—room gas heaters, portable kerosene heaters, portable electric heaters, wood stoves or fireplaces with inserts, and built-in or other fixed electric heaters—the first three have the highest, and comparable, risk of deaths and injuries (including non-fire deaths due to carbon monoxide), while the solid-fueled fixed space heaters tend to involve the highest risk of property damage from fire. Portable kerosene heaters are illegal in some states, and they do have the highest risk of fire death by some measures, but a review of all relevant risk information does not clearly support singling them out.

Most home heating fires are preventable if people follow NFPA codes, standards, recommendations, and other guides to safe heating, such as advice from fire code officials and fire safety experts:

- When buying a new unit, make sure it carries the mark of an independent testing laboratory. Be sure that a qualified technician installs the unit or checks that the unit has been installed according to manufacturers' instructions and any applicable code.
- Wood and coal stoves, fireplaces, chimneys, chimney connectors, and all other solid-fueled heating equipment need to be inspected annually by a professional and cleaned as often as the inspections indicate.
- Space heaters need space. With very few exceptions, home heating devices need a 36" clearance from combustibles. (In metric terms, this can be rounded up to 1 meter, which is slightly more than 39".)
- A portable kerosene heater must be filled only in a well-ventilated area, free of flame and other heat sources, and only when the device has cooled completely. Use only the type of kerosene specified by the manufacturer for that device, and never use gasoline instead of kerosene. Also, be sure that portable kerosene heaters are legal for home use in your community.

(Continued on page 20)

(Continued from page 18)

protection measures in nursing homes that work well now need to be strengthened.”

According to NFPA research, when sprinklers are present in a building, the chances of dying in a fire are cut by one-half to two-thirds, compared to fires where sprinklers are not present. In fact, when measured by the average number of deaths per thousand fires in 1994–1998, the reduction associated with sprinklers is 82% for properties that care for the aged or sick.

IFMA Submits TIA Requiring Sprinklers in Nursing Homes

After the Hartford, Connecticut, nursing home fire that killed 10 and injured 23, IFMA submitted the following TIA request to NFPA 101, *Life Safety Code*, in early June.

Add a new 19.3.5.1.1 to read:

19.3.5.1.1 Buildings containing nursing homes shall be protected throughout by an approved, supervised automatic sprinkler system in accordance with Section 9.7, unless otherwise permitted by 19.3.5.3.

As of press time we have not heard the outcome of this TIA request.

(Continued from page 19)

- When turning a heating device on or off, be careful to follow the manufacturer's instructions. When buying heaters, look for devices with automatic shutoff features.
- Be sure any gas-fueled heating device is installed with proper attention to ventilation, and if unvented gas space heaters are used in bedrooms or bathrooms, they must be small and well-mounted. Also, LP (liquefied petroleum) gas heaters with self-contained fuel supplies are prohibited for home use by NFPA codes.

There are some differences in fire death risk among different types of central heating units, defined by type of fuel or power, but these differences do not consistently favor or disfavor any type and are dwarfed by the overall difference in risk between central heating and space heating (either fixed or portable).

Major causes of home heating fires include (a) lack of regular cleaning, leading to creosote buildup in wood-burning devices and associated chimneys and connectors; (b) failing to give space heaters space, by installing or placing heaters too close to combustibles or placing combustibles too close to heaters; (c) basic flaws in the construction, design, or installation of wood-burning heating equipment; and (d) fueling errors involving liquid- or gas-fueled heating equipment.



Structure Fires in Facilities That Care for the Aged, Including Nursing Homes and Residential Board and Care

In the wake of two recent nursing home fires in Hartford and Nashville, where a total of 24 people died, the One-Stop Data Shop is providing statistics on facilities that care for the aged. The sources used for the data are the *U.S. Fire Problem Overview Report* by Marty Ahrens and NFPA's historical files. For additional information, please contact Nancy Schwartz at 617-984-7450 or e-mail osds@nfpa.org.

Facilities that care for the aged include institutional properties designed to house the aged and provide care, whether or not they are licensed and whether or not they have nursing staff on site. Elderly housing, where people cook for themselves and maintain their own apartments, is considered residential and is not included here. The changes in the coding structure and the conversion of older data to the Version 5.0 format have introduced a few exceptions. Because facilities that care for the aged and do not have nursing staff, and children's orphanages convert into residential board and care, a new code, they are included here. Only fires reported to public fire departments are included in these statistics.

3,200 of these structure fires were reported in 1999.

The frequency of nursing home and residential board and care structure fires and associated losses during 1999 are listed below. In 1999, 2,500 nursing home fires and 700 residential board and care facility care fires (a total of 3,200 fires) caused a total of three civilian deaths, 150 civilian injuries, and \$10.7 million in direct property damage.

During 1999, the 3,200 structure fires in nursing homes and residential board and care facilities accounted for 0.6% of the 523,600 structure fires, 0.1% of the 3,041 civilian structure fire deaths, 0.8% of the 18,519 civilian structure fire injuries, and 0.1% of the \$8.5 billion in direct property damage.

Since 1980, these structure fires fell 27%.

Structure fires in facilities that care for the aged fell 27% from 4,400 in 1980 to 3,200 in 1999. From 1998 to 1999, these fires increased 16% from 2,800. Even with the increase (and the inclusion of fires from children's homes or orphanages that were converted into board and care), the 1999 figure is lower than the 3,300 in 1997. Structure fires of all types declined 51% from 1980 to 1999. From 1998 to 1999, total structure fires increased by 1%.

Cooking and dryers were the leading causes of these fires.

Cooking equipment was involved in 28% of the fires at these facilities. Dryers were involved in 18% of these ignitions, smoking materials caused 11%, heating equipment was involved in 10%, and electrical distribution equipment was also involved in 10% of the fires. Smoking was the leading cause of fire deaths in these properties.

(Continued on page 22)

DEADLIEST FIRES IN USA FACILITIES FOR OLDER ADULTS SINCE 1950

1. Katie Jane Nursing Home, Warrenton, MO, February 17, 1957, 72 killed vs. total of 149 patients.
2. Golden Age Nursing Home, Fitchville, OH, November 23, 1963, 63 killed vs. total of 84 patients.
3. Nursing home, Largo, FL, March 29, 1953, 33 killed, including 32 patients vs. total of 45.
- 4A. Convalescent home, Marietta, OH (nurses present but may not have been a nursing home), January 9, 1970, 31 killed vs. total of 46 patients.
- 4B. Rest home, Keansburg, NJ (sheltered care facility, not a nursing home, some residents were older adults), January 9, 1981, 31 killed vs. unreported total of residents.
- 6A. Nursing home (intermediate care type), Chicago, IL, January 30, 1976, 24 killed vs. total of 83 patients.
- 6B. Boarding home, Bradley Beach, NJ (boarding home, not a nursing home, most residents were older adults), July 26, 1980, 24 killed vs. total of 36 residents.
8. Convalescent home, Hoquiam, WA (may not have been a nursing home), January 30, 1951, 21 killed vs. total of 29 patients.
9. Nursing home, Hillsboro, AR, October 31, 1952, 20 killed vs. total of 70 patients.
10. Nursing home, Hartford, CT, February 26, 2003, 16 killed vs. total of 148 patients.

(Continued from page 21)

Kitchens, laundry rooms, and bedrooms were the leading areas of origin.

Twenty-nine percent of these fires began in the kitchen, 20% began in laundry rooms, and 16% began in a bedroom.

Residents of these facilities are particularly vulnerable.

People over 65 face twice the risk of dying in a home fire as the general population. The risk increases with increasing age. Consequently, the aged are considered a high-risk population. Institutional facilities that care for older adults must work diligently to prevent fires and to train staff and to equip the property (e.g., active systems) for effective response should a fire occur. The deadliest fire in U.S. history in this property class was the 1957 Katie Jane Nursing Home fire in Warrenton, Missouri, that killed 72 people.

93% of these fires occurred in properties with smoke alarms.

Most (93%) facilities that care for the aged have smoke alarms. Almost three-quarters of the facilities with reported fires were protected by automatic suppression systems. The death rate when no automatic suppression system was present was almost six times as high as the rate in a facility with this protection. Direct property damage was twice as high.

Additional information sources.

The Fire Analysis and Research Division's One-Stop Data offers packages of published articles and reports about fires in nursing homes and in housing for older adults. NFPA members can download a number of investigation reports on nursing home and board and care fires at no cost from www.nfpa.org/research/fireinvestigation/firereports/firereports.asp.

Two chapters found in the 19th edition of the NFPA *Fire Protection Handbook*, "Health Care Occupancies" by Daniel J. O'Connor, and "Board and Care Facilities" by Philip R. Jose, describe some of the special fire safety concerns for these properties.

Visit www.nfpa.org/research/fireinvestigation/ctfire/ctfire.asp on NFPA's Web site for information on nursing home fires and related resources.

(Continued on page 23)

DEADLIEST FIRES IN FOREIGN FACILITIES FOR OLDER ADULTS SINCE 1950

1. Home for older adults, Kingston, Jamaica (residential custodial care facility, with nurses on duty, but not a nursing home), May 20, 1980, 146 killed vs. total of 211 residents.
2. Home for older adults, Yokohama, Japan (not a nursing home because no nursing staff), February 17, 1955, 99 killed, including 98 patients vs. total of 143 patients.
3. Home for older adults, Notre Dame du Lac, Quebec, Canada (not a nursing home because no nursing staff), December 2, 1969, 40 killed vs. total of 67 residents, including at least 20 who were bedridden.
4. Home for older adults, Virrat, Finland (not a nursing home), January 22, 1979, 26 killed, mostly bedridden.
5. Nursing home, Mississauga, Ontario, Canada, July 14, 1980, 25 killed (all patients in the north wing of the third floor) vs. 198 total patients.
- 6A. Retirement home, Saint Jean de Losne, France (may not be a nursing home), April 23, 1980, 24 killed (all bedridden) vs. unreported total number of patients.
- 6B. Nursing home, Grandvilliers, France, January 9, 1985, 24 killed (some early accounts had death toll of 30) vs. 180 total patients.
8. Rest home, Gander, Newfoundland, Canada, December 26, 1976, 21 killed vs. unreported total number of patients.
9. Home for older adults, Nottinghamshire, UK (not a nursing home), December 15, 1974, 18 killed vs. unreported total number of patients.
- 10A. Retirement home, Higashimurayama, Japan (not a nursing home), June 6, 1987, 17 killed vs. 74 total residents.
- 10B. Nursing home, unidentified town, Costa Rica, July 19, 2000, 17 killed vs. 41 total patients.
- 10C. Convalescent home, Pointe aux Trembles, Quebec, Canada (may not be a nursing home), April 14, 1957, 17 killed vs. 27 total patients.

Source: NFPA files on major fire incidents.

*(Continued from page 22)***1999 Structure Fires in Nursing Homes and Residential Board and Care Facilities**

Occupancy	Fires	Civilian Deaths	Civilian Injuries	Direct Property Damage (in Millions)
Nursing home	2,500	3	111	\$8.5
Residential board and care	700	0	39	\$2.3
Total	3,200	3	150	\$10.7

Fires are rounded to the nearest hundred, deaths and injuries to the nearest one, and direct property damage to the nearest hundred thousand dollars. Sums may not equal totals due to rounding errors.

Fire Protection Features in Structure Fires in Facilities That Care for the Aged Reported to Public Fire Departments: 1994–1998 Annual Averages

Percent of fires in buildings with smoke or other fire alarms present	93.3%
Percent of fires in buildings having smoke or other fire alarms in which devices were operational	87.8%
Percent of fires in buildings with operational smoke or other fire alarms (product of first two statistics)	82.0%
Percent of fires in buildings with automatic suppression system	73.6%
Deaths per 1,000 fires with automatic suppression system	1.9
Deaths per 1,000 fires with no automatic suppression system present	10.8
Reduction in deaths per 1,000 fires when automatic suppression systems were present	82.0%
Average loss per fire when automatic suppression system was present	\$1,780
Average loss per fire with no automatic suppression system	\$3,973
Reduction in loss per fire when automatic suppression systems were present	55.2%

Source: National estimates based on NFIRS and NFPA survey.

(Continued on page 24)

(Continued from page 23)

1999 Structure Fires in Facilities That Care for the Aged Including Nursing Homes and Residential Board and Care,* by Cause Unknown-Cause Fires Allocated Proportionally

Civilian Cause	Fires	Civilian Deaths	Injuries	Direct Property Damage (in Millions)
Cooking equipment	900(28.2%)	0(0.0%)	37(24.8%)	\$0.5 (4.2%)
Range	400(11.6%)	0(0.0%)	32(21.2%)	\$0.3 (2.6%)
Food warmer or hot plate	100(4.6%)	0(0.0%)	5(3.5%)	\$0.1 (0.5%)
Steam or warming table	100(2.8%)	0(0.0%)	0(0.0%)	\$0.1 (0.5%)
Oven or rotisserie	100(2.5%)	0(0.0%)	0(0.0%)	\$0.0 (0.1%)
Appliance, air conditioning, or tool	800(24.5%)	0(0.0%)	32(21.4%)	\$4.1 (37.8%)
Dryer	600(17.5%)	0(0.0%)	21(13.8%)	\$0.5 (5.1%)
Air conditioner	100(3.3%)	0(0.0%)	0(0.0%)	\$0.1 (1.3%)
Washing machine	100(1.7%)	0(0.0%)	11(7.6%)	\$3.4 (31.4%)
Smoking materials	400(11.4%)	3(100.0%)	27(18.3%)	\$0.8 (7.2%)
Heating equipment	300(10.3%)	0(0.0%)	8(5.1%)	\$0.4 (3.9%)
Fixed or portable space heater	100(3.9%)	0(0.0%)	2(1.5%)	\$0.2 (2.0%)
Electrical distribution equip	300(10.0%)	0(0.0%)	19(12.7%)	\$1.5 (14.4%)
Lamp, bulb, or lighting	100(3.5%)	0(0.0%)	2(1.5%)	\$0.0 (0.2%)
Wiring, switch, or outlet	100(2.8%)	0(0.0%)	5(3.1%)	\$1.2 (11.1%)
Intentional	200(5.6%)	0(0.0%)	16(10.7%)	\$2.5 (23.6%)
Open flame, ember, or torch	100(3.9%)	0(0.0%)	11 (7.1%)	\$0.0 (0.4%)
Other equipment	100(3.4%)	0(0.0%)	0(0.0%)	\$0.1 (1.4%)
Other heat source	0(1.5%)	0(0.0%)	0(0.0%)	\$0.0 (0.5%)
Exposure	0(0.5%)	0(0.0%)	0(0.0%)	\$0.7 (6.4%)
Natural causes	0(0.5%)	0(0.0%)	0(0.0%)	\$0.0 (0.1%)
Child playing	0(0.1%)	0(0.0%)	0(0.0%)	\$0.0 (0.0%)
Total	3,200(100.0%)	3(100.0%)	150(100.0%)	\$10.7 (100.0%)

*Properties coded as facilities that care for the aged without nursing staff and children's homes or orphanages in earlier versions of NFIRS convert to residential board and care facilities in NFIRS Version 5.0. About 100 children's home or orphanage fires were reported, on average, per year during 1994-1998.

Note: These are fires reported to U.S. municipal fire departments and so exclude fires reported only to Federal or state agencies or industrial fire brigades. Fires are rounded to the nearest hundred, civilian deaths and civilian injuries are expressed to the nearest one and property damage is rounded to the nearest hundred thousand dollars. Sums may not equal totals due to rounding errors. The 12 major cause categories are based on a hierarchy developed by the U.S. Fire Administration. Property damage has not been adjusted for inflation.

Source: National estimates based on NFIRS and NFPA survey.

(Continued on page 25)

(Continued from page 24)

**1999 Structure Fires in Facilities That Care for the Aged
Including Nursing Homes and Residential Board and Care,* by Area of Origin
Unknown-Area Fires Allocated Proportionally**

Area of Origin	Fires		Civilian Deaths		Civilian Injuries		Property Damage (in Millions)	
Kitchen or cooking area	900	(29.3%)	0	(0.0%)	33	(21.8%)	\$0.6	(5.7%)
Laundry area	600	(19.7%)	0	(0.0%)	33	(21.8%)	\$4.0	(37.0%)
Bedroom	500	(16.2%)	0	(0.0%)	48	(32.0%)	\$2.9	(27.2%)
Lavatory, locker room, or checkroom	100	(4.4%)	2	(50.0%)	0	(0.0%)	\$0.1	(0.6%)
Common room, den, family room, living room, or sitting room	100	(3.8%)	0	(0.0%)	21	(14.3%)	\$0.5	(5.1%)
Dining room, cafeteria, lunch room, or beverage service area	100	(2.6%)	0	(0.0%)	0	(0.0%)	\$0.0	(0.3%)
Heating room or area, water heater area	100	(2.0%)	0	(0.0%)	2	(1.4%)	\$0.0	(0.1%)
Storage of supplies or tools, dead storage, or unfinished basement	100	(1.7%)	0	(0.0%)	2	(1.4%)	\$0.1	(0.6%)
Other known service or equipment area	200	(5.9%)	0	(0.0%)	3	(2.0%)	\$0.5	(4.2%)
Other known structural area	100	(4.2%)	2	(50.0%)	2	(1.4%)	\$0.8	(7.7%)
Other known storage area	100	(2.8%)	0	(0.0%)	0	(0.0%)	\$0.1	(0.9%)
Other known means of egress	100	(2.5%)	0	(0.0%)	4	(2.7%)	\$0.1	(0.5%)
Other known area	200	(5.0%)	0	(0.0%)	2	(1.4%)	\$1.1	(10.1%)
Total	3,200	(100.0%)	3	(100.0%)	150	(100.0%)	\$10.7	(100.0%)

*Properties coded as facilities that care for the aged without nursing staff and children's homes or orphanages in earlier versions of NFIRS convert to residential board and care facilities in NFIRS Version 5.0. About 100 children's home or orphanage fires were reported, on average, per year during 1994–1998.

Note: These are fires reported to U.S. municipal fire departments and so exclude fires reported only to Federal or state agencies or industrial fire brigades. Fires are rounded to the nearest hundred, civilian deaths and civilian injuries are expressed to the nearest one and property damage is rounded to the nearest hundred thousand dollars. Sums may not equal totals due to rounding errors. Property damage figures have not been adjusted for inflation. Percentages are calculated on the actual estimates, so two fires with the same rounded-off estimates may have different percentages.

Source: National estimates based on NFIRS and NFPA survey.

IFMA Calendar of Events

November

- 3-6 Florida Fire Marshals and Inspectors Association Annual Meeting
- 4-7 Tennessee Fire Inspectors Association Annual Meeting
- 15-19 IFMA Annual Conference and NFPA Educational Meeting, Reno, NV
- 22-24 PARADE Meeting, USFA

January

- 5 Proposal closing date NFPA 1 Uniform Fire Code

February

- 23-27 Technical Committee on Uniform Fire Code, CA

March

- 2-3 Northcentral Regional Fire Code Development Committee, Indianapolis, IN
- 9-10 Northeastern Regional Fire Code Development Committee, Baltimore, MD
- 16-17 Southern Regional Fire Code Development Committee, Albuquerque, NM
- 23-24 Western Regional Fire Code Development Committee, Seattle, WA